

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-06 CU-04 OES-07
DEAE-00 /039 W

-----117358 090234Z /72

P 090127Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3434

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - CEMEF REQUEST FOR FELLOWSHIPS

REF: STATE 140864

1. SUMMARY: CEMEF HAS ENDORSED AND FORWARDED TO EMBASSY PROPOSAL FOR TWO FELLOWSHIPS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR DRUG-RELATED STUDIES. ESTIMATED COST OF BOTH PROGRAMS DOLS 17,890. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS APPROVAL. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTERS FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CENTRO MEXICANO DE ESTUDIOS EN FARMACODEPENDENCIA (CEMEF) REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR DRUG-RELATED FELLOWSHIPS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR DOCTOR CARLOS M. CONTRERAS AND MISS MARIA TERESA GONZALEZ-ESTRADA.

3. CARLOS MANUEL CONTRERAS-PEREZ EARNED HIS DEGREE AS A SURGEON AT THE UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTONOMA DE MEXICO (UNAM) IN 1974, WHERE HE IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED IN THE FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY. HE HAS DONE CONSIDERABLE
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WORK IN THE FIELD OF INHALENT EFFECTS ON THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM AND HAS DEVELOPED AN ADDICTION MODEL WHICH HAS GENERATED THEORETICAL OUTLINES OF STUDY IN THE FIELDS OF ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR RESEARCH. HE PROPOSES TO PURSUE THIS STUDY, AT THE EXPERIMENTAL LEVEL, IN THE WISCONSIN REGIONAL PRIMATE CENTER RESEARCH CENTER (WRPRC) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

UNDER DOCTOR ROBERT E. BOWMAN, WHO IS CURRENTLY STUDYING BEHAVIORAL CHANGES FOLLOWING LOW LEVELS OF INGESTION OF EITHER LEAD ACETATE OR POLYCHLOROBIPHENYLS IN MONKEYS AND FOLLOWING EXPOSURE TO LOW LEVELS OF HALOTHANE IN RATS. CONTRERAS SEEKS TO ACQUIRE OR DEVELOP FOLLOWING SPECIFIC SKILLS: (A) OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUES IN THE STUDY OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS; (B) MANAGEMENT OF INFERIOR PRIMATES AT BOTH BEHAVIORAL AND ELECTROPHYSIOLOGICAL LEVELS; (C) CURRENT TECHNIQUES OF ELECTROPHYSIOLOGICAL STUDIES; (D) CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF NEUROCHEMISTRY AS IT RELATES TO PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY; AND (E) TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH WISCONSIN SPECIALISTS WORKING IN THE AREA OF ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY AND PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY.

4. ATTACHED TO CONTRERAS PROPOSAL IS LETTER DATED JUNE TWO FROM BOWMAN STATING THAT IF DETAILS ON FUNDING AND TIMING CAN BE SPECIFIED IT IS LIKELY THAT WRPRC WOULD SPONSOR CONTRERAS AS A FELLOW. LETTER OUTLINES FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT WRPRC AND DESCRIBES HOW THEY MESH WITH CONTRERAS PROPOSAL.

5. PROPOSAL SUGGESTS THAT CONTRERAS WORK UNDER BOWMAN FOR PERIOD AUGUST 1977 TO SEPTEMBER 1978, AND ESTIMATES TOTAL COST OF FELLOWSHIP AT DOLS 9,740, BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS: (A) HOUSING DOLS 3,600; (B) FOOD AND MISCELLANEOUS DOLS 1,200; (C) HEALTH INSURANCE DOLS 2,000; (D) TRAVEL TO/FROM WISCONSIN DOLS 900; (E) LABORATORY EXPENSES DOLS 1,200. (NOTE: CONTRERAS WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND DAUGHTER.)

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LANE DOLS 2,040; (C) HEALTH INSURANCE DOLS 2,000; (D) TRAVEL TO/FROM WISCONSIN DOLS 900; (E) LABORATORY EXPENSES DOLS 1,200. (NOTE: CONTRERAS WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND DAUGHTER.)

6. MARIA TERESA GONZALEZ-ESTRADA HOLDS AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY FROM THE UNIVERSIDAD IBEROAMERICANA AND HAS BEEN AN ASSISTANT INVESTIGATOR AT THE INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE NEUROLOGIA SINCE 1973. SHE HAS COLLABORATED IN THE PUBLICATION OF NUMEROUS WORKS ON THE NEUROLOGICAL EFFECTS OF A WIDE RANGE OF DRUGS, PRIMARILY MARIJUANA AND SOLVENTS SUCH AS PAINT THINNER, TOLUENE AND BENZENE. SHE PROPOSES TO CONTINUE HER STUDY OF THE NEUROPHYSIOLOGY AND NEUROCHEMISTRY OF THE PALEOCORTEX UNDER DOCTOR WALTER J. FREEMAN, PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IN BERKELEY. SHE ALSO HOPES TO LEARN FROM AND BUILD ON THE WORK DONE BY FREEMAN ON THE EFFECTS OF THE INHALATION OF INDUSTRIAL SOLVENTS ON THE OLFACTORY PATHWAY, AND TO LEARN COMPUTERIZATION AND STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES AS CURRENTLY APPLIED TO SUCH RESEARCH. SHE SEEKS TO ACQUIRE OR DEVELOP THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC SKILLS: (A) SIMULTANEOUS RECORDING OF ELECTRO-

ENCEPHALOGRAM, D.C. POTENTIALS, UNIT ACTIVITY AND EVOKED POTENTIALS OF THE PALEOCORTEX AND RELATED COMPUTER ANALYSIS; (B) DIRECT INJECTION OF DRUGS INTO THE CORTEX AND THE MEASUREMENT OF ELECTROPHYSIOLOGICAL CHANGES; (C) COMPUTER APPLICATIONS FOR THE ABOVE; AND (D) STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE ABOVE.

7. ATTACHED TO GONZALEZ PROPOSAL IS LETTER DATED APRIL 26 FROM FREEMAN PROPOSING THAT TRAINING BEGIN ON OCTOBER ONE. LETTER EXPLAINS SCOPE OF TRAINING AVAILABLE WHICH CLOSELY PARALLELS ABOVE OUTLINE. BECAUSE GONZALEZ DOES NOT HOLD ADVANCED DEGREE AND WILL NOT BE REGISTERED AS

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REGULAR GRADUATE STUDENT, SPECIAL STUDENT FEES OF DOLS 2,600 WILL BE REQUIRED.

8. PROPOSAL SUGGESTS THAT GONZALEZ WORK UNDER FREEMAN FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 1977 TO SEPTEMBER 1978, AND ESTIMATES TOTAL COST OF FELLOWSHIP AT DOLS 10,853, BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS: (A) SUBSISTENCE DOLS 3,360; (B) HEALTH INSURANCE DOLS 870; (C) REGISTRATION FEE DOLS 2,600; (D) LABORATORY EXPENSES DOLS 750; (E) TRANSPORTATION AND MISCELLANEOUS DOLS 3,273.

9. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION JULY 8, CEMEF DIRECTOR GENERAL CONFIRMED THAT CEMEF HAS NO FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THESE FELLOWSHIPS. MISS GONZALEZ NOTES THAT SHE HAS APPLIED FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE CREDITO EDUCATIVO

PARA EL FOMENTO ECONOMICO DEL BANCO DE MEXICO, WHICH WOULD COVER APPROXIMATELY 25 PERCENT OF TOTAL COST OF HER PROGRAM.

10. NAME CHECKS OF FILES HELD BY VARIOUS EMBASSY ELEMENTS NEGATIVE.

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11. RECOMMENDATION: STUDY PROPOSED IN BOTH CASES DIRECTLY RELATES TO ABUSE OF SOLVENTS, WHICH GOM CONSIDERS AS ITS PRIMARY DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM. TRAINING SOUGHT BY APPLICANTS COULD, THEREFORE, DIRECTLY BENEFIT MEXICAN DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAM. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS 100 PERCENT GRANT FOR CONTRERAS (DOLS 9,740) AND 75 PERCENT GRANT FOR GONZALEZ (DOLS 8,150) FOR TOTAL OF DOLS 17,890 FROM INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS FUNDS. PROGRAM COULD BE ADMINISTERED BY AID, AS PROPOSED REFTTEL, OR FUNDS COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO CEMEF. LATTER OPTION WOULD REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE COST TO USG. ADVISE ASAP. LUCEY

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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